

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: DUFNER et al.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

MAR. 28, 2001

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

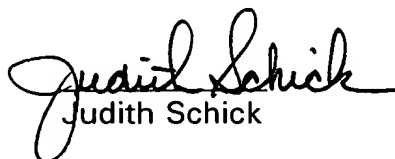
In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants wish to bring the references, listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith, to the attention of the Examiner. 5 of the references (USP 5,590,235, EP 505 159, EP 657 989, DE 195 19 248 and the BEIERKE article) were cited during the prosecution of German priority application **DE 198 45 626** in a **German Search Report** of 20 APR. 1999, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Other references are included because they were cited in the **International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210)** of 26 NOV. 1999, a copy of which is enclosed. The International Search Report identifies US "patent family members" in each instance except DE 197 00 479 but that German reference corresponds to recently issued DIETERLE/PAPST USP 6,078,152, prosecuted by the undersigned. Specification page 5 cites Müller/Papst **DE 23 46 380**, which corresponds to USP 3,873,897.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Judith Schick

For the convenience of the Office, corresponding US patents are furnished in several instances. If, in order to consider KARWATH DE 198 26 458 and HORNBERGER DE 198 36 882, the examiner needs copies of the corresponding (pending) US application texts, he is invited to telephone the undersigned and ask for them. To demonstrate the correspondence between German documents and US patents, several DERWENT WPI English-language abstracts are provided. Finally, for the sake of full disclosure, datasheets are provided for the microcontroller and EEPROM mentioned in the specification. The English-language abstracts, of several German-language documents, suffice to make the relevance apparent. Therefore, **this submission complies with MPEP § 609.**

#### REMARKS

No representation is made that more pertinent, although presently unknown, art does not exist. It is anticipated that the Examiner will conduct a thorough search of the prior art and will carefully consider the documents submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to **return an initialled copy** of form PTO-1449, to confirm that the references have been considered.

Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited. No fee is believed required; if any is required, it may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

*Milton Oliver*

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DATE: MAR. 28, 2001

Encl.: German Search Report of 20 APR. 1999  
International Search report of 26 NOV. 1999  
PTO-1449 & references cited